



JUNE'S SERVICE THEME:
Memory

Following are the tentative topics for our June on-line meetings, using the Zoom platform. Please check the website closer to the date in case any changes have been necessary.

JUN 7 **Soulful Singing—
Leveraging the Power of
Song in Tricky and
Troubled Times**

Guest Minister: Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins
Service Coordinator: Janet Pivnick
Join singer-songwriter and UU community minister, the Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins for a spirited service of singing and reflecting on leaning into the power of song during these challenging days. We'll share songs and chants through the oral tradition in an active meditative practice called Soulful Singing. At this time of not being able to touch physically, we need to hold each other close in many other ways—in our hearts, prayers, dreams and SONGS. This service promises to be participatory, grounding and uplifting.

JUN 14 **Memories We Love**
Rev. Meg Roberts
Memories make us who we are. They are the stories we tell about ourselves and our lives. What precious memories warm your heart or inspire you now? How do we create memories we will love as we look back on this time?

JUN 21 **Flower Communion:
Whole Church Service**
*Co-Leaders: Ashley Cole and
Rev. Meg Roberts*
You are invited to bring a flower, a sweet piece of summer into your home for this special all-ages, online, Flower Communion. If what you have access to is a wildflower in the yard, it is welcomed. If you want to buy a flower, it is welcomed. If you'd like to draw a flower, it is welcomed. As

we navigate this online experience, the flower in your heart is more than enough if you show up without a flower. We celebrate each of you and the gift that Beacon is in our lives.

BEACON'S MISSION



Our mission is to celebrate the worth and dignity of all people and to live in conscious relationship with the earth.

For inspiration, we draw on the world's great scientists, artists, humanists and theologians, as well as on our personal experiences.

So we are inspired to create greater equality, greater justice and greater hope for our world.

Musings by Meg

June's theme is **Memory**. As I write this, I've just come off the first online cross-Canada Sunday Service, hosted by the Canadian Unitarian Council. There were over a thousand people watching that service live, through either Zoom or Youtube. For those who were able to experience that, you'll have your own memories of it. (For others who weren't able to, I hope you'll check out the recording of it on the [Canadian Unitarian Council's Youtube channel](#).)

It got me thinking about the very first Unitarian Sunday service I ever attended. It was 1992, in Montreal, also at the Canadian Unitarian Council's annual meeting—of course that service was in person. It was a beautifully sunny May day. They had built wooden bleachers in the shell of the burnt-out sanctuary of the old church on Sherbrooke Street, with plastic over the top in case of rain. Being new to Unitarian community, I was curious about what it would be like. Just as at today's CUC service, there was beautiful music and inspiring words. I felt drawn to this group of authentically friendly people, these free thinkers. I wanted to learn more about them. What clinched it for me that day was during the postlude, when the brass quintet played ragtime music, people spontaneously got up and danced in the aisles! "Now here," I thought, "are my people!"

What are favourite memories you have of Beacon or other communities? What do you value about those times and those people? How do you want to live now, learning from those past experiences?

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It is my privilege to have had this congregational year with all of you during a time of significant transition at Beacon. As of this spring, we've been supporting one another and learning together during a huge transition in the world. I am pleased that the Board of Trustees and I are negotiating so I can work again with Beacon this next program year, 2020–2021. I know we will continue to be in a time of transition, and I value continuing on that journey together.

I'll be on holidays in July and on study leave the first three weeks of August. Then I look forward to reconnecting. During June, I look forward

to hearing your treasured memories from Beacon and from your life. I hope you and those dear to you are well and stay well this summer.

In the spirit,

—Rev. Meg Roberts



Rev. Meg Roberts

How to reach me:

Because I'm working 1/2-time from home, here's how best to reach me:

- My regular Beacon days are Wednesdays and Thursdays. To support emotional connection and physical distancing, I'm available for appointments via Zoom or phone.
- I work Fridays and Saturdays of those weekends when I lead the Sunday service—focusing on service preparation those days as well as other work. (This month, that's June 14–15 and June 20–21.)
- Mondays and Tuesdays are my regular days off.
- I can be reached via email: minister@BeaconUnitarian.org and on my cell at 778-870-9015. I will respond as soon as I'm able. If it's an emergency, please leave a message on my phone.

I look forward to connecting with you.

Keeping current during the pandemic

To be most responsive to the changing plans and needs during the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be updating our website as new information about our services and programs becomes available. Visit beaconunitarian.org, or contact our board president: president@beaconunitarian.org. We will also be sending information using our weekly email update, *Beacon This Week*; our Beacon Unitarian Church Facebook Group, and the weekly Religious Explorations email newsletter, currently entitled the *Weekly Quarantine Care Kit*.

Connecting,
Inspiring,
Transforming!

Board Bitz

The New Board met on Wednesday, May 20th. Thank you to **Janet Pivnick, Donna Hamilton, Elizabeth Campbell, and John Hagen**, for attending our first meeting to help with the transition. Returning to the board this year are **Heather Brown, Karen Greenland**, and myself, **David Kristjanson**. New to the board are Rob Warner, Susan Tarras, Regina Ogmundson, and Amalia Mamani. **Rob Warner** is a long time Beacon member and brings with him many years of Unitarian/Universalist history. This is Rob's second time on the board. **Susan Tarras** is also a long time Beacon member. This is Susan's first time on the board, and she brings with her many years of Beacon experience from Religious Exploration to Connecting and Membership, as well as her years as Beacon's financial reviewer. **Regina Ogmundson** has been coming to Beacon for the last several years. Regina has belonged to a number of Unitarian congregational communities since 1989 and has served on one congregational board

during that time. **Amalia Mamani** has also been attending Beacon for the last few years and has definitely jumped in feet first. Amalia is a Canadian citizen, born in Peru, and brings to the board the benefits of her experience as a mother, educator and as an immigrant. We are very pleased to have them join us.

We started our meeting by going over the board member responsibilities. We then discussed what strengths and gifts we bring, and what each of us hoped for during our time on the board. We used that discussion to decide who would make the best board liaison for each Beacon committee. **I think we make a great team.**

As we start to wind down the church year, the board will be busy with year end reviews for all of Beacon's contract workers and will begin negotiating new contracts for those returning in September. We are really hoping that they will all be with us again next year.

We will also be in discussions with Rev. Meg about her contract for the

2020–2021 church year. **Rev. Meg Roberts** has been our rock in this year of transition and pandemic, and we are so pleased that she will continue to be with us for another year.

COVID-19 has really changed the world that we live in, but one thing has not changed. Beacon remains a vibrant and exciting congregation. We have moved from meeting each Sunday at Sapperton Hall to meeting each Sunday online via Zoom. As we have been self isolating, we have been reaching out to each other online and on the phone. We continue to **Connect with Compassion & Respect, Inspire Learning and Spiritual Growth, and Transform through Joy and Justice.** Thank you all for making this such a loving and caring community.

— David Kristjanson, President



David Kristjanson

Pastoral Support Team

Beacon's Pastoral Support Team encourages members and friends to reach out and let us know if you, or someone you know, has a specific need. For example: wanting emotional or physical support of some kind; illness at home or in hospital; in self-isolation and needing help with errands. We can do our best to be of use and will be asking other Beaconites to assist in ways that meet recommendations around social contact from BC's Provincial Health Officer. **Likewise, our team is looking for help** in case getting groceries, doing errands, or other kinds of assistance as requested. Thank you for helping Beacon be the caring community it wants to be.

—Rev. Meg Roberts (778-870-9015), Laura Redmond and Judy Villett pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org

BEBEDOLE!

(aka BEacon-BEfore-DONna-LEaves Celebration)

We'll party with story and song online!

Hold the date:

Sat. June 13, 1:30–3:30 pm-ish

More details to be revealed on the website soon and in the weekly e-news "Beacon This Week."

SAVE THE DATE!



Let's Connect with the Humanist Group

One definition of humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility, as humans, to lead ethical lives of growth and personal fulfillment, individually and collectively.

The Beacon Humanist Group likes to think about and discuss our common humanity, and our place as individuals and collectives in this dance of life. We are a group that welcomes different points of view and discusses a wide range of ideas. We meet the last Sundays of the month, via Zoom. If this piques your curiosity please contact Marilyn Medén by email (m.j.medén@telus.net) or by phone at 604-469-6797.

Some comments from group members:

Earl Morris: Why the Humanist Group? The theme of humanism seems to me to be co-creating a better world, honouring and exploring a

diversity of ideas, and avoiding magic and superstition. I love the format and the presentations. There is ample time for lively and always respectful discussion. I enjoy the depth in which we look at a topic and the interesting perspectives that everyone brings: always varied and always interesting.

One definition of humanism is a progressive philosophy of life that, without supernatural beliefs, affirms our ability and responsibility, as humans, to lead ethical lives of growth and personal fulfillment, individually and collectively.

Elizabeth Campbell: I love the Humanist Group! We are kindred souls who gather monthly to discuss and philosophize over questions relevant to our world and our lives in it. Members in the group present topics they have chosen and researched, give a short introduction and then invite general discussion. All are encouraged to join in. After-

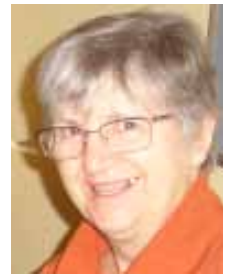
wards we socialize, over coffee and refreshments (when we were meeting in person), and now via Zoom during the stay-at-home time of Covid 19.

See page 6 for details on June's presentation. Hope to see you on Zoom!

—Marilyn Medén

Settlement 2 Update

A big thank you to everyone at Beacon and beyond who made it possible for the AIRbaai family to come to



Peggy Lunderville

Canada, including the two younger families, and now including baby Wissam. I have not always been able to send a direct thank you to each of you personally who contributed many thousands of dollars which made it possible for us to support them for the first year. When I hear of the refugees who continue to suffer from world events I am so glad that we have been able to make this change in the life of one family. My heart goes out to the AIRbaai family members who remain in Jordan and Syria. And yet, I cannot imagine how difficult it must be to leave the country where your family has lived for centuries or longer.

On July 4 we will no longer continue to have sponsorship responsibility. However, we continue to be their Beacon friends and to support our family as best we can.

—Peggy Lunderville



Here are some images from Humanist meetings before Covid.

Beacon's Vision

CONNECT – with compassion and respect

INSPIRE – learning and spiritual growth

TRANSFORM – through joy and justice

Religious Exploration (RE) for May

First of all a huge thank you to all the amazing folks who have made our online services over the past few months so wonderful! It has been great being able to connect during these challenging times. I especially loved seeing all of your pets during the pet parade! I cannot believe we are already headed into our final month of 'regular' (albeit virtual) services for this church year. Looking forward to June, I'm especially excited for the June 21st all ages Flower Ceremony service which I will be co-leading with Rev. Meg Roberts. Come celebrate each other and the cusp of summer while showing off a flower of your choosing, or even your own creation!

As we move into this final month I wanted to highlight some ways we will be continuing to support families.

As you know I have been sharing a weekly "quarantine care kit" email with plenty of resources for families and will continue to do so until the end of June. In addition to these virtual 'care kits' the religious exploration committee and I have made plans to share physical care kits, custom tailored for each family. We will be delivering them mid to late June. If you know of a family who could benefit from such a kit please send me a note to let me know and I will do my best to arrange it. Also happening in mid to late June, I am planning to host a youth games night. We will meet over zoom and have an opportunity to check in and play some virtual games, so stay tuned for some more information on that. As things continue to evolve and we continue to adapt, you can stay the most up-to-date on

the happenings of Beacon by checking out the Beacon website, Facebook page and Beacon this week email newsletter. If you have any questions, concerns or additional ideas for how we can meet the needs of families during this time, feel free to send me an email or give me a call, I'm always happy to chat!

And as always, the pastoral care team is available if you need support—even through the summer. If you would like to reach them you can email pastoralcare@beaconunitarian.org.

Take good care,
—Ashley Cole (*she/her pronouns*),
Director of Religious Exploration,
dre@beaconunitarian.org



Ashley Cole

Living with Less Plastic: The "War on Plastic"



Knowledge Network has been featuring the 'War on Plastic' this month, a BBC series that brings focus to our consumption of single-use plastic. (The three episodes have aired in May however they are [available on-line](#) for the next while.)

The series makes use of this sobering statistic: **Every minute of every day, a garbage truck-load of plastic**

enters our oceans. And this is in spite of our collecting, recycling and reusing efforts.

During our worship service on April 19, we asked people to think about the 5 'R's of Zero-Waste: Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rethink. It turned out that, in the small conversation groups, people chose most often to RETHINK plastics. It is a big

task: we use plastic in every aspect of our lives. We encounter it in medical supplies, computers, food production, food distribution, consumer packaging, airliners, clothing, the list goes on. And Single-Use Plastic is ubiquitous: baked goods, dairy products, shopping bags, take-out food containers, and dollar store items, to name just a few areas.

Greenpeace has an email campaign that I hope you will consider joining, ([greenpeace.org](https://www.greenpeace.org) and then ACT). The emails are being sent to our Minister of Health and the Cabinet Committee on Economy and the Environment. The message asks for a strong policy and banning of many Single-Use Plastics.

Thank you for all that you do,
—Teresa Morton
Living with Less Plastic New West
Teresa.a.morton@gmail.com

Beacon Programs

We invite you to explore these great ways to connect to the Beacon community and yourself!

The Humanist Discussion Group (Online) meets the last Sunday of the month at 7:30 pm, now via Zoom, to discuss a wide range of topics. Since we are not travelling as much as we are used to, there will be a **June 28th** meeting. The topic will be: *The post-coronavirus world and the “new normal. What will it look like? Will it be better or worse than the “old-normal”? And what have we learned from all this?* Led by John Slattery. For further information about the Humanist Group, and for Zoom meeting details, please contact Marilyn Medén m.j.meden@telus.net (604 469 6797).

Theology Pub (Online)
Sunday, June 21st at 2 pm: We shall consider our 6th source: **Spiritual teachings of Earth-centred traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.** Grateful for the religious plu-

ralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support. These principles and sources were written by members of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Karl Perrin may join us for this last source discussion. For more information contact Franci Louann, email: francilouann@gmail.com or 604-837-7613.

Online knitting & crafting circle.

This isn't a class, it is suggested as an online weekly point of contact with a random group who like to knit or do crafts. We can share our projects, knit together, and chat. Email Laura Redmond (lauraredmond2@telus.net) if this is of interest to you. We will then sort out the best time to meet online.

Book Club meetings are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7 pm and are now online. For Zoom details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net. **June 25, 2020:** *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* by Dave Eggers. Facilitator: Gail Thomson. See box on page 7 for more information.

Settlement 2 Task Force is responsible for the settlement of four refugees who arrived as permanent residents of Canada in July 2019. Those wishing to help as volunteers and/or donate to the settlement fund, please contact Peggy Lunderville, prlunder@gmail.com.

Attend a ‘Getting to Know U’ session to meet other newcomers and deepen your knowledge of how Beacon functions and what Unitarianism is. Please contact Joan Morris (joan.morris@telus.net) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.

Join the Beacon Choir for musical fun and skill development. Contact choirdirector@beaconunitarian.org for more info. *Note: Choir practices have been suspended until further notice.*

Lunch Bunch meets every Thursday at noon, year-round. Bring your own lunch and share in lively and topical conversation. Contact Anne MacLeod at 604-524-2434. *Note: Meetings have been cancelled until further notice.*



Soul Matters Sharing Circles (Online)

Sharing Deeply, Being Heard

At this time, we meet once a month online using the Zoom platform to deepen our exploration of Beacon's monthly theme, using the theme packet sent out via email at the beginning of each month, or available on our website: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/service-descriptions-upcoming-and-recent/>.

The packet includes a couple of options for a spiritual exercise as well as some questions—you choose one exercise to try out that month and one question to ponder.

Led by Rev. Meg Roberts, the next session is planned for Wednesday, June 3 on Imperfection (May's theme) – we have two groups:

- 1:00–3:00 pm
- 6:30–8:30 pm

If you could like to come and try it out, please contact Rev. Meg Roberts for Zoom access information and participant info packet (minister@BeaconUnitarian.org, 778-870-9015). You can join via computer/smart phone/tablet or via regular phone. All are welcome.

Online Beacon Film Club

Join us for a fun night. Similar to the book club, the procedure is to view the film in advance, and then come to a Zoom meeting to chat about it.

The films selected are all available from YouTube for a rental fee (free up to \$6.99). They may also be available for streaming from other internet sources, so if you have a subscription to a streaming service, do check there first. To rent a film from YouTube, just search for the title in YouTube and look for the video that has a blue “Buy or Rent” box next to it.

We will meet to talk about the film at 7 pm on Friday evenings via Zoom. Please email Nancy Rupert (nancy.rupert@gmail.com) for Zoom meeting details. Each week a new person will “host” a film they’ve chosen. Bring your popcorn and your opinions.

Film Line-up for June

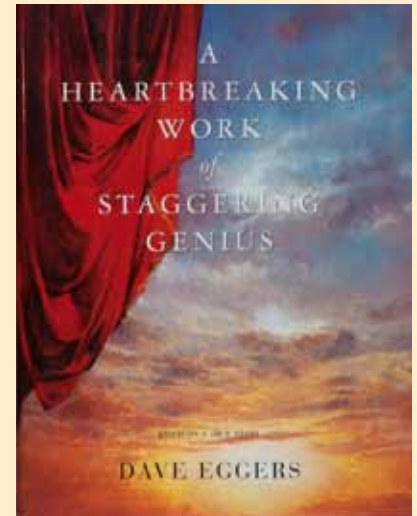
5th: *Maurice* (1987) (David hosting)

12th: *The Terminal* (2004) (Susan Millar hosting)

19th: *Moon Over Parador* (1988) (Richard Hollis hosting) Free viewing: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RbB_y4y2Z8s&list=PLrtiMPB9aVvRa84XiicNsJoVszbQ9dNXf&index=1 OR it can be rented on iTunes.

26th: *Imitation of Life* (1959) (Karen Hamilton hosting)

Beacon Book Club Thurs. June 25, 7 pm (Online)



A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius by Dave Eggers.
Facilitator: Gail Thomson

“This is a beautifully ragged, laugh-out-loud funny and utterly unforgettable book.”

—San Francisco Chronicle

A book that redefines both family and narrative for the twenty-first century. *A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius* is the moving memoir of a college senior who, in the space of five weeks, loses both of his parents to cancer and inherits his eight-year-old brother. Here is an exhilarating debut that manages to be simultaneously hilarious and wildly inventive as well as a deeply heartfelt story of the love that holds a family together—an instant classic that will be read for decades to come. (Source: New Westminster Public Library)

More info about the book club at: <http://beaconunitarian.org/index.php/book-club/>.

For Zoom meeting details contact John Hagen, ajhagen@telus.net.

Submission guide for weekly Beacon email: BTW

Beacon This Week (BTW) will now be sent out on Thursday mornings. The deadline for submissions will be 6 pm on Wednesdays. Please send brief announcements to BTW@beaconunitarian.org, and save longer details for the newsletter.

Beaconites in the Spotlight

Do you have an event or accomplishment that you would like to share with the Beacon congregation? Please submit your information for publication in *The Beacon* by the 15th day of the month, for inclusion in the following month's newsletter. Email: newsletter@beaconunitarian.org.



**Beacon
Unitarian
Church**

Getting to Know U

The Connecting and Membership Committee periodically organizes a *Getting to Know U* event. This is an opportunity to meet others—those also new to Beacon, and perhaps new to Unitarianism—in a relaxed day of conversation and questions.

There'll be a few ‘mature’ Beaconites to share their stories with you and a little Unitarian history thrown in as well. Please contact Joan Morris (joanmorris@telus.net) if you are interested in attending the next meeting.



CUC Virtual Gatherings via Zoom



CUC Coffeehouse Connections – Multigen

Saturday, May 30, 3 pm PT

Come and connect with UUs of all ages! Join us each Saturday for CUC Coffeehouse Connections.

The May 30 edition features the talents and passions of younger UUs. Are you a UU kid or youth who would like to share a talent (some ideas: sing a song, play an instrument, tell a joke or a story, share some art you made, do a dance... or something else!)? Fill out the sign-up sheet! All kids and teens under 18 must attend with a parent/guardian.

Join us at <https://bit.ly/2Vrz7rr>

Connect and Deepen Virtual Gathering (Online)

June 14 (2nd Sunday of the month) 1 pm PT (90 minutes) – Register Now!

Connect and Deepen is a regular small group ministry. We gather, virtually, for meaningful discussion, connection and reflection. If you are not connected to a local congregation, or just want the opportunity to explore spiritual topics within a guided small group we encourage you to join us.



Join the Zoom Meeting: <https://bit.ly/2Vz6zfl>

Questions? Please contact your facilitators: Rev. Linda Thomson, Congregational Life Lead – Central/Eastern Regions and/or Joan Carolyn, Congregational Life Lead – BC/Western Regions

Processing the Pandemic: Young Adult Grief Ritual

Thursday, June 18, 5:00 pm PT

This pandemic continues to impact our daily lives and future plans in significant ways. Young adults (18-35) are invited to gather together to share about the impacts of small changes and large sacrifices, and to support each other as we move through our grief in healthy, spiritually grounded ways.

Register for this event here: <https://forms.gle/uwSm57p8RkC-qZ4fA8>

Update on CUC COVID-19 response

We continue to develop resources and programs to support and engage congregations during this challenging time. Please visit our [Resources for Congregations During Covid-19](#) Google folder for Virtual Meeting Resources (including Zoom), and an [online calendar for gatherings](#) across the country.

While congregations and organizations like the CUC have adapted very quickly to a new online reality, it's important to remember that these changes in the way we connect can be both a welcomed tool but also overwhelming at times. This article "[Zoom Exhaustion is Real](#)" from mindful.org offers six ways to stay connected and maintain balance while using Zoom.

CUC Leaders COVID-19 Sessions – June 20

Saturday, June 20 – 9 am PT

A roundtable for congregational leaders to connect: these weekly sessions invite leaders to share, learn, inform and muse together, with CUC staff, on coping and resiliency during Covid-19.

This week: Supporting Congregations Over the Summer.

Join us online at <https://bit.ly/LeadersCV-19>



Beacon Unitarian Church

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Choir Director:
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Vice-President: Susan Tarras;
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Production: Laura Redmond
Proofreading: Donna Hamilton

Deadline for article submissions is the 15th of the month, for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.